

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting – September 16, 2014

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

Members Present: Steve Arendt, Chair; Ellrony Williams; Robert Crump; Sally Gauch; Susan Hester

Others Present: Theresa Coish, Library Director; Sue Connor; Candise Prewitt; Barbara VonVillas, Town Council liaison to the library.

Member Absent: Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas; Ernie Gibbons

Others Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:08 P.M. by Steve Arendt, Chair.

Welcome to Robert Crump, newly appointed Board member.

Remembrances of Paul LaMond were shared. Steve Arendt suggested collecting emails, etc. on the Library website as a tribute, to include Steve's remarks from the town hall recognition ceremony and other tributes. Flowers were sent from the Board and staff by Theresa.

Standing, the Board observed a moment of silence in memory of

Paul.

Disposition of Minutes:

Minutes of August 19, 2014 meeting reviewed. Two corrections:

--Under "Theresa had a meeting and obtained the staff's thoughts of library going forward..." add "20 hour position to assist Technical Services."

--Move from staff suggestions to Director's report "Exploring wireless printing and vendors that would provide such a service."

**Motion to accept: Gauch Second: Hester. Abstained: Crumb.
Unanimously carried**

Enter executive session 6:26 p.m. Reconvened regular session 7:19 p.m.

**Motion to seal minutes of executive session: Gauch Second: Crumb
Unanimously carried**

Correspondence received: None

Director's progress and financial reports on the library:

Theresa Coish reviewed information provided in her Director's Report.

Discussed content of circulated report.

Additional items:

--Flyers highlighting upcoming visit of the OverDrive Digital

Bookmobile were distributed. The visit to Middletown Public Library on Thursday, October 2, will be one of only two in the state. Hours will be from 10am to 4pm. Theresa Coish is arranging publicity for the event.

--The public is invited to view the Library's open space design studio for 4 hours a day, next week. Residents will learn about 3-D printing, 3-D design and scratch programming. There is a potential to have a high school intern, through FabNewport, do tours and information instruction in the future. The intern could earn community service hours.

--The Library has been receiving memorial donations in memory of Violet Alose, Margery White, and Paul LaMond.

--The current art exhibit, highlighting West House artists, is drawing visitors on a steady basis. The reception was held in early September. Information about the exhibit was published in the Newport Daily News, and is also available on the library's website and flyers.

**Motion to accept Director's Report: Gauch Second: Williams.
Unanimously carried.**

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: No report. Arendt serves on this committee. There is one vacancy.

--Contract Negotiations: No report. Dionne-Thomas and Gibbons are members of this committee.

--Director's Evaluation: No report. Members are Dionne-Thomas, Gauch, and Hester.

--Friends Liaison: Theresa reports that the Friends are meeting tomorrow. Theresa will meet tomorrow with Lynne Dible, at the suggestion of Shaun Brown, regarding the Friends' letter of agreement request. The Friends are making some by-law changes, and are planning for the annual meeting in March. They report "enjoying a good retail environment in the bookstore."

--Policy Review: No report. Williams serves here. There is one vacancy.

Arendt suggested all should be thinking about serving on the long-range planning committee.

New Business:

--Library Board officers have one more year before their terms expire. The Budget Committee needs a member, as does the Policy Review

Committee. Crumb was appointed to the Policy Review Committee. The Budget Committee vacancy will be filled later.

**--A garden design to honor Paul LaMond was presented by Theresa. A sketch drawn by Ann Marie Chase, including ornamentation and vegetation, was provided to attendees. The garden is designed to attract birds, bees, and butterflies, and would be located in the area where the ramp was recently removed. Motion to accept the concept of the plan to be implemented at the discretion of the Friends: Gauch
Second: Ellrony Unanimously carried.**

-- A volunteer from the Martin Luther King center now picks up the library's canned goods donations.

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None

Announcements:

--Congratulations to Ernest Gibbons will be postponed until the next board meeting.

--The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 6:00 P.M., at the Library.

**--Motion to adjourn: Hester Second: Gauch Unanimously
carried**

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Susan Hester

For the Secretary